17-1 (Rev 8-11-03)

ATTENTION

The following documents appearing in FBI files have been reviewed under the provisions of The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552), Privacy Act of 1974 (PA) (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552a), and/or Litigation

☐ FOIA/PA ☐ Litigation ☐ Executive Order Applied

Requester ____________________
Subject ____________________
Computer or Case Identification Number ____________________
Title of Case ____________________ Section ________
* File ____________________
Serials Reviewed ____________________

Release Location *File ____________________ Section ________

This file section has been scanned into the FOIPA Document Processing System (FDPS) prior to National Security Classification review Please see the documents located in the FDPS for current classification action, if warranted Direct inquires about the FDPS to RIDS Service Request Unit, 202-324-3773

File Number 245D-NO-7(NO) Section 14
Serial(s) Reviewed All

FOIPA Requester ____________________
FOIPA Subject ____________________
FOIPA Computer Number #984989

File Number ____________________ Section ________
Serial(s) Reviewed ____________________

FOIPA Requester ____________________
FOIPA Subject ____________________
FOIPA Computer Number ____________________

File Number ____________________ Section ________
Serial(s) Reviewed ____________________

FOIPA Requester ____________________
FOIPA Subject ____________________
FOIPA Computer Number ____________________

THIS FORM IS TO BE MAINTAINED AS THE TOP SERIAL OF THE FILE, BUT NOT SERIALIZED

ATTENTION

DO NOT REMOVE FROM FILE

FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
PAGE B-1 and B-2
"MORNING ADVOCATE"
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Date 12/12/86

Edition Morning

Title MIGUEL VELEZ, aka, ET AL; ADLER B. SEAL - VICTIM

Character or Classification OCDE TASK FORCE INVEST 245B-7

Submitting Office New Orleans

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Venue change denied in Seal murder trial

By MIKE DUNNE
Advocate staff writer

Brushing aside a public opinion poll that questions whether a fair trial can be held for three Colombians accused of the machine-gun slaying of Adler Barry Seal, District Court Judge Frank Saia refused defense motions to move the proceedings from Baton Rouge.

Pretrial publicity has been "no greater than in other cases" that have received a lot of news coverage, he said. Some have been granted changes of venue and some have not, Saia said Thursday.

"It is, however, an interesting case to the general public. Does that create any prejudice?" he said.

"No one has expressed an opinion other than to say it is a very interesting case," he said of the input he has received.

"I overwhelmingly feel that the built-in safeguards are there," Saia said.

The state contends that Carlos Quintero-Cruz, Bernardo Antonio Vasquez and Miguel Velez, along with Jose Renteria-Campo, gunned down drug informant Seal as Seal reported to the Salvation Army Halfway House in February.

On Wednesday, Campo's trial was separated from the others.

"I do not believe the accused can get a fair trial in East Baton Rouge," said pollster Jerry Doty, called by the defense.

Doty's poll indicated a low opinion of South Americans in general and Colombians in particular and that many believe that the defendants are guilty.

One of the defense attorneys, Jack Dampf, said no appeal is planned, but additional action may be called for if there is trouble seating a jury here for the case.

Citing the poll by Doty, Cruz's attorney, Anthony Marabella, argued that the "people of East Baton Rouge believe he (Seal) was killed for hire . . . That's a preconceived notion."

He argued that news coverage resulted in a "very, very high saturation of the facts on this case."

Velez's attorney, Richard Sharpstein, complained that all too often "the media allegation (was) that this is a Colombian hit squad sent down here. There is a lot of local interest in Barry Seal, his life and his death.

"Deep down in their souls, they are dying . . . to get a piece of this Barry Seal fame" Sharpstein said of his fear for potential jurors.

Assistant District Attorney Prem Burns said press coverage has been extensive but objective.

"The focus has been on Barry Seal," she said, contending that there has really not been much discussion of the facts of the case or limelight on the defendants.

While representatives of three television stations and one radio station took the stand to present videotapes and newscast scripts, much of the attention was focused on Doty's poll.

One of the 24 questions he asked 400 parish residents in early December was whether they think the general population of Baton Rouge believe the four men were guilty. Doty said 59 percent answered "yes" with a large margin answering "no opinion."

When asked if people believed the men were involved in narcotics trafficking, 73 percent said "yes."

Doty said 94 percent of those polled answered that they had heard or read about the Seal murder case.

When asked if they knew the name of the man murdered in the Salvation Army parking lot, 69 percent could name Seal by name. "That's pretty high," Doty said of the former drug informant's notoriety.

While Doty's polling technique has won a change of venue in a Rapides Parish murder case, Saia seemed less than impressed on a number of occasions.

"We're not running for public office here. We're doing something a little different," the judge said.

Also brought up as an issue was the security for the trial. There is a bullet-proof glass partition that separates the public area from the defendants, judge, attorneys and other court personnel. All those going into the courtroom are swept with a metal detector, and purses

CONTINUED FROM 1B

and briefcases are searched by deputies.

Sam Dalton, representing Vasquez, had a quiver in his voice when he spoke of such searches being conducted in an American court.

Saia dismissed Dalton's theatrics. Because of the nature of the trial, no matter where it is held, there will be heavy security, Saia said.

In a separate but related matter, District Attorney Bryan Bush said arrangements have been made to use the State Police Training Academy for the trial.

Bush said he had conferred with Gov. Edwin Edwards and Col. Wiley McCormick, head of the state police, about use of the single-story building, which will be easier to guard than the Governmental Building.

To secure the Governmental Building's courtroom would require 150-200 men per shift on a 24-hour basis, Bush said Thursday.

The district attorney said he had "great fear of something drastic like blowing up the whole building," noting that a judge who presided over an extradition hearing in Colombia had been assassinated.

The auditorium of the State Police Training Academy will be converted into a courtroom for use during the trial, Bush said. The building has only one entrance and will be easier to secure than the Governmental Building or the U.S. Courthouse.

FD-350 (Rev 5-8-81)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state)
PAGE D-9
"TIMES-PICAYUNE/STATES-ITEM"
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Date 6/11/86
Edition MORNING

b7C

Title [redacted] AKA; ADLER BERRIMAN SEAL

Character or Classification OCDE TASK FORCE-INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING NO 245D-7

Submitting Office NEW ORLEANS

Indexing

Separate trials are sought

By The Associated Press

BATON ROUGE — Two men have asked for separate trials in the Feb 19 gangland-style slaying of drug smuggler-informant Adler "Barry" Seal

Attorneys for Luis Carlos Quintero-Cruz and Jose Renteria-Campo filed a series of motions to fight off murder charges and the death penalty

Among those motions were attempts to separate their trials They said evidence against alleged co-conspirators might unfairly prejudice the jury against all the defendants

An East Baton Rouge Parish grand jury charged four men with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit first-degree murder in the case The accused are Quintero-Cruz, 33, and Renteria-Campo, 38, both of Colombia, Miguel Velez, 36, Miami, and Bernardo Antonio Vasquez, 32, Hialeah, Fla

First-degree murder is punishable by death in the electric chair or life imprisonment without benefit of probation, parole or suspension of sentence

Conspiracy to commit first-degree murder is punishable by a maximum 30-year prison term

Investigators testified that witnesses and other evidence point to Cruz as the triggerman in the machine-gun slaying Campo was alleged to have bought a getaway car and supplies He was not seen at the Salvation Army halfway house on Airline Highway where the slaying occurred, investigators said.

Evidence points to Velez as the one who drove the getaway car, and that Vasquez at some time was in that car and participated in planning the slaying, investigators said

245D-7-1007

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[redacted]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3/7/86

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On February 19, 1986, at approximately 9:30 P.M., [redacted] advised that MIGUEL VELEZ had checked back into the HILTON HOTEL at 901 Airline Highway, Kenner, Louisiana, at approximately 9:00 P.M., on February 19, 1986. [redacted] stated that VELEZ [redacted] could travel into downtown New Orleans. VELEZ took a SERVICE CAB at approximately 9:15 P.M. Further investigation [redacted] at SERVICE CAB determined that VELEZ gave the taxicab driver $264.00 in cash and requested that the cab driver take him to Montgomery, Alabama, telling him that he expected to return the next day and requesting the cab driver to wait for him.

[redacted] advised SA [redacted] that [redacted] telephoned him and reported that [redacted] a Latin male driving a blue, Lincoln Towncar. The individual asked [redacted] and that VELEZ had been with him for an undetermined amount of time.

Investigation on 2/19/86 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 245D-7-1009

by SA [redacted]
SA

b7C

Date dictated 3/4/86

U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

701 Loyola Avenue,
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

May 22, 1986

Honorable Stanford S. Bardwell, Jr.,
United States Attorney,
Middle District of Louisiana,
352 Florida Street, 2nd Floor,
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70801

Attention: AUSA Bradley C. Myers
(Assistant United States Attorney)

Re: Adler B. Seal

Dear Mr. Bardwell:

This letter will serve to confirm the April 4, 1986, conversation between Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) Bradley C. Myers and Special Agent (SA) [redacted] of this office wherein Mr. Myers concurred with the use of a body recording device and consensual monitoring of telephone conversations to record conversations between [redacted]

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Mr. Myers was of the opinion that entrapment was not at issue in this matter.

Your cooperation in this, as in matters past, is appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,

WAYNE R. TAYLOR
Acting Special Agent in Charge

b7C

BY: [redacted]
Senior Supervisory Resident Agent

Searched
Serialized
Indexed

1 - Addressee
1 - New Orleans
JLP:mbt
(2)

[redacted]

245D-7-1014

FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state)
PAGE 2B
"MORNING ADVOCATE"
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Date 6/11/86
Edition MORNING

b7C

Title [redacted] AKA;
ADLER BERRIMAN SEAL

Character or Classification OCDE TASK FORCE - INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING NO 245D-7
Submitting Office NEW ORLEANS

Suspects request severed trials

Attorneys for two suspects in the Feb 19 slaying of drug smuggler/informant Adler "Barry" Seal have asked District Judge Frank Saia to try them apart from their co-defendants in the shooting, according to court records

Attorneys for Luis Carlos Quintero-Cruz and Jose Renteria-Campo filed a series of pre-trial motions last week to fight off murder charges and the death penalty

Among the motions were attempts to sever their trials They claim evidence against co-defendants might unfairly prejudice the jury against them

An East Baton Rouge Parish grand jury charged four men with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit first-degree murder, including Quintero-Cruz, 33, and Renteria-Campo, 38, both of Colombia

Also charged in the murder were Miguel Velez, 36, of Miami and Bernardo Antonio Vasquez, 32, of Hialeah, Fla

Investigators have testified that witnesses and other evidence point to Cruz as the triggerman in the machine-gun slaying Campo was alleged to have bought a getaway car and supplies but was not seen at the Salvation Army Community Teatment Center on Airline Highway, where the slaying occurred

Evidence points to Velez as the one who drove the getaway car, and indicates that Vasquez at some time had been in that car and participated in planning the killing, investigators said

One of Campo's attorneys, Michele Fournet, argued in her motions that her client could be subjected to "transference of guilt" and "guilt by association" through evidence against the others

Anthony Marabella, an attorney for Cruz, argued that Cruz might be unfairly tainted by negative publicity and evidence against Velez and by incriminating statements Vasquez gave authorities

Attorneys for Velez and Vasquez are expected to file their motions soon Then Assistant District Attorney Prem Burns will have a chance to respond, after which there will be a hearing on all requests before the Aug 18 trial date

245D-7-1015

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JUN 16 1986
FBI — NEW ORLEANS

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0040 03:49 20FEB86
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LSP HQS BATON ROUGE
TO FBI NEW ORLEANS

REF: MIGUEL VELEZ

b7C

ATT: [redacted]

THE FOLLOWING TWO MSGS WAS RECEIVED BY THIS OFFICE FROM MERIDIAN MS PD

MS0380100 49258
0449 02:39 20FEB86

0058 03:45 20FEB86
LALSP0005
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MSG # 2 MERIDIAN, MS PD 022086
TO BATON ROUGE, LA SP

REF: MURDER SUSPECT MIGUEL VELEZ
THIS DEPT. HAS SUSPECT IN CUSTODY AT THIS TIME.
SUBJECT HAD A LITTLE OVER $3,000.00 CASH, KEYS FOR
AN AVIS RENT A CAR (RED CADILLAC DEVILLE),AND KEY
FOR A MOTEL ROOM #296. CONTACT [redacted]

b7C

AUTH MERIDIAN, MS PD [redacted] OPR [redacted] 0248 CST

MS0380100 50690
0545 03:27 20FEB86
0058 03:45 20FEB86

LALSP0005
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MSG # 3 MERIDIAN MS PD 022086
TO BATON ROUGE LA SP

REF/BLUE AND WHITE SERVICE CAB WOULD YOU
CONTACT CAB CO AND ADVISE THEM THAT CAB #73
IS DISABLED WITH A BROKEN RADIATOR HERE IN
MERIDIAN.CAB WAS INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT
DAMAGE TO CAB ONLY DRIVER WILL BE HERE AT
OUR STATION.

b7C

AUTH MERIDIAN MS PD [redacted] OPR [redacted] 0335 CST

LSP HQS BATON ROUGE, LA LALSP0000 [redacted]

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2(57)-2-1418

LALSP0005 49835
0020 02:57 20FEB86
0031 02:57 20FEB86
APB
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LSP HQS
TO ALL STATIONS

REF: MURDER SUSPECT MIGUEL VELEZ

SUBJECT IS IN CUSTODY AT THIS TIME IN MERIDIAN, MS.

THANKS FOR ALL THE HELP.

b7C

AUTH: [redacted]
LSP CRIME LAB

VIA: LSP HQS BATON ROUGE, LA LALSP0000[redacted]

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SERIALIZED.......FILED.......
FEB 20 1986
FBI — NEW ORLEANS
[redacted]

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245D-7-1017

LALSP0005 43064
0166 23:59 19FEB86
0490 23:59 19FEB86
APB.MS,AL
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MSG: HQ-0194-86 BATON ROUGE, LA LALSP0000 20FEB86

**************************USE EXTREAM CAUTION*************************************

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR A BLU/WHI SERVICE CAB #73 POSSIBILITY OUT OF KENNER,LA
IN ROUTE TO MONTGOMERY,AL. TRANSPORTING 1 WHITE MALE
MIGUEL VELEZ 6 FOOT TALL 175-180 LBS BLACK HAIR THIN MUSTACH 36 YOA
DOB,06-07 49

LAST SEEN WEARING A GREEN 2 PIECE SUIT AND WHITE POINTED SHOES

SERVICE CAB LEFT KENNER, LA AT 2100 HOURS 19FEB86. LAST RADIO CONTACT WAS
ON I-59 AT 2335 HOURS SAME DATE.

**************ARMED AND DANGEROUS----MURDER SUSPECT*******************

IF CONTACT IS MADE NOTIFY BATON ROUGE PD [redacted] OR NEW ORLEANS
FBI [redacted]

AUTH: FBI BATON ROUGE
[redacted] CASE AGENT b7C

BY: [redacted]
LSP CRIME LAB

VIA: LSP HQS BATON ROUGE, LA LALSP0005 [redacted]

245D-7-1020

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SERIALIZED ... FILED ...
FEB 20 1986
[redacted] EANS

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FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

TIMES-PICAYUNE/STATES-ITEM
New Orleans, La., Sec. B,
p. 7

Date 7/10/86

Edition Morning

Title ADLER BERRIMAN SEAL, aka ET AL

Character or Classification OCDE TASK FORCE CASE (OO: NO)
NO 245D-7

Submitting Office: NO

Slaying linked to drug lords

By The Associated Press

BATON ROUGE — Officials in the East Baton Rouge Parish district attorney's office say the murder of drug informant Adler "Barry" Seal has been linked to a ring of Colombian drug lords who ordered his death

Prosecutors claim they have evidence and witnesses to prove that Seal's death was caused by a conspiracy headed by Colombian drug lord Jorge Ochoa, who is fighting extradition from Spain to Florida Seal was expected to be the star witness against him in Florida, where Ochoa faces drug-trafficking charges

"There will be testimony of witnesses as well as physical evidence to corroborate," said Assistant District Attorney Prem Burns

Meanwhile, federal prosecutors are watching the state proceedings to see if the district attorney's office can prove that Seal was killed because he was going to testify against Ochoa Burns said that if she is able to prove Seal was killed by Ochoa's orders, then Seal's earlier testimony on Ochoa's associates can be used against the drug king

"It can also lead to further charges both at the federal as well as the state level for first-degree murder," she said

Federal officials are also interested in how the suspects charged in the killing are paying their attorneys Al Winters, head of the government's organized crime division, said the attorneys may be called before a federal grand jury to tell who is paying them A new federal law prohibits them from receiving illegally obtained money

Burns said new evidence shows that the conspiracy to kill Seal began in June 1984 and lasted until June 1985, then was reactivated in January 1986, when Spain agreed to extradite Ochoa to face drug charges.

Burns said the new evidence could lead to the indictments of some co-conspirators who haven't been charged in the murder And she said that Ochoa may be charged with first-degree murder

"Anyone who's a principal to the killing, even though they were not physically present in the jurisdiction, if they aid and abet or in any matter contribute to the commission of the homicide they are still liable as principals and can still be indicted for murder," she said

Burns said the evidence indicates that Miguel Velez, 36, one of the four Colombians charged with Seal's murder, was a part of the original conspiracy Prosecutors claim Velez drove the getaway car in the murder Velez is being represented by Miami lawyer Richard Sharpstein and Baton Rouge lawyer Jack Dampf

District Attorney Bryan Bush said there is tension between federal authorities and his office

"It hasn't hampered the investigations, but it's made blood pressures go up high some time," Bush said

Bush said federal prosecutors were upset about motions filed last week that outline new evidence in the Seal killing Bush said the information was entered into record under state law

"It has to get out to the public You can't hide secret testimony from anybody If we have evidence we want to present, we have to tell them about it in advance to let them prepare for trial," Bush said.

Bush said federal prosecutors may have withheld information to keep control of the investigation He said state prosecutors couldn't get a copy of Velez's criminal record until WRBT-TV in Baton Rouge got it from the New York City district attorney's office But Bush said that despite these problems, he thinks federal and state prosecutors can work together in the Seal murder case

Atlanta attorney Bobby Lee Cooke, who represented child murderer Wayne Williams, has bowed out of the Seal case because of scheduling conflicts with the Aug 18 trial

Defense co-counsel Michele Fournet said Cooke has been replaced by Alexandria attorney Mike Small, who will represent Jose Renteria-Campo, 38, accused of buying the getaway car and supplies for the killing Attorney Miguel Orta of Miami is also helping Renteria-Campo's defense

Also accused in the killing are Carlos Quintero-Cruz, 33, represented by Miami attorney Bob Moore and Baton Rouge attorney Anthony Marabella, and Bernardo Antonio Vasquez, 32, whose attorneys are Wayne Walker and Sam Dalton, both of New Orleans

245D-7-1037

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FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
PAGE B-7
"TIMES-PICAYUNE/STATES-ITEM"
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Date 7/10/86
Edition MORNING

Title [redacted] AKA;
ADLER BERRIMAN SEAL

Character or OCDE TASK FORCE-INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING
Classification NO 245D-7
Submitting Office NEW ORLEANS

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Slaying linked to drug lords

b7C

By The Associated Press

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Prosecutors claim they have evidence and witnesses to prove that Seal's death was caused by a conspiracy headed by Colombian drug lord Jorge Ochoa, who is fighting extradition from Spain to Florida Seal was expected to be the star witness against him in Florida, where Ochoa faces drug-trafficking charges

"There will be testimony of witnesses as well as physical evidence to corroborate," said Assistant District Attorney Prem Burns

Meanwhile, federal prosecutors are watching the state proceedings to see if the district attorney's office can prove that Seal was killed because he was going to testify against Ochoa Burns said that if she is able to prove Seal was killed by Ochoa's orders, then Seal's earlier testimony on Ochoa's associates can be used against the drug king

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Bush said federal prosecutors may have withheld information to keep control of the investigation He said state prosecutors couldn't get a copy of Velez's criminal record until WRBT-TV in Baton Rouge got it from the New York City district attorney's office But Bush said that despite these problems, he thinks federal and state prosecutors can work

[redacted]

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SD-7-1036
INDEXED
FILED
JUL 10 1986

together in the Seal murder case

Atlanta attorney Bobby Lee Cooke, who represented child murderer Wayne Williams, has bowed out of the Seal case because of scheduling conflicts with the Aug 18 trial

Defense co-counsel Michele Fournet said Cooke has been replaced by Alexandria attorney Mike Small, who will represent Jose Renteria-Campo, 38, accused of buying the getaway car and supplies for the killing

Attorney Miguel Orta of Miami is also helping Renteria-Campo's defense

Also accused in the killing are Carlos Quintero-Cruz, 33, represented by Miami attorney Bob Moore and Baton Rouge attorney Anthony Marabella, and Bernardo Antonio Vasquez, 32, whose attorneys are Wayne Walker and Sam Dalton, both of New Orleans

FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
PAGE 2B
"MORNING ADVOCATE"
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Date 7/15/86
Edition MORNING

b7C

Title [redacted] AKA; ADLER BERRIMAN SEAL

Character or Classification OCDE TASK FORCE-INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING NO 245D-7

Submitting Office NEW ORLEANS

Suspect extradited to Colombia

A reputed cocaine kingpin named as an unindicted co-conspirator in the machine-gun death of drug informant Adler "Barry" Seal was extradited by Spain to his native Colombia Sunday, officials with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Miami reported.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Gregory, who has tried to extradite Jorge Ochoa Vasquez to the United States on cocaine-trafficking charges for almost two years, said Monday his office now will try to persuade Colombia to extradite Ochoa Vasquez to this country.

"We're very disappointed the extradition didn't send him to the United States," Gregory said. "We will now seek to extradite him from Colombia to the United States.

" . . . He is in jail based on our provincial arrest warrant," he said.

Ochoa Vasquez was placed aboard a Colombia Avianca jetliner bound for Bogota at 2:30 a.m., according to Associated Press sources at Madrid's Barajas airport.

The Spanish government made no statement regarding the extradition.

Ochoa Vasquez, 36, was arrested in Madrid in November 1984 at the request of the U.S. government. The Colombian extradition request was made a year later.

Gregory said his office forwarded arrest papers on Ochoa Vasquez to Colombia, but he does not plan to travel there to press for extradition.

Both the United States and Colombia sought Ochoa Vasquez's extradition on charges he was a member of an international cocaine-trafficking ring.

He was indicted by a federal grand jury in Miami on July 27, 1984, along with three other Colombians, on charges of conspiracy to import cocaine from Colombia to the United States and "being involved in a continuing criminal enterprise."

Others indicted in Miami were reputed drug smugglers Carlos Lehder, Gonzal Rodriguez Gacha and Pablo Escobar Gaviria. Gavaria also was named as an unindicted co-conspirator in Seal's murder.

The three men are still fugitives, and Lehder recently was the subject of a Spanish television documentary that showed him somewhere in a jungle, possibly in Colombia.

Following the indictment, Ochoa Vasquez fled to Spain where he was arrested.

Seal, a drug smuggler turned federal witness, operated as a confidential informant for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in an

245D-7-1043

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JUL 2 1986

FBI DOJ

investigation that led to the indictments. He was expected to be a star witness in the Miami case.

The case brought to light allegations that Sandinista government officials provided protection for the traffickers in a plot to smuggle cocaine from Colombia to the United States through Nicaragua.

In district court documents here, state prosecutors are alleging the murder conspiracy began when a contract was placed on Seal's life in December, 1984, and that the conspiracy continued until June 30, 1985.

"The prosecution alleges that the initial conspiracy included Miguel Velez, those unindicted co-conspirators previously named . . . and those unindicted co-conspirators whose names the prosecution have moved to file under seal. . . ."

Velez was indicted by a parish grand jury with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit first-degree murder in connection with Seal's death.

Also indicted in Seal's murder were Bernardo Antonio Vasquez, Jose Renteria-Campo and Luis Carlos Quintero-Cruz.

Prosecutors allege the murder conspiracy remained inactive from July, 1985, until Jan. 22, 1986, ". . . at which time the conspiratorial efforts were renewed among prior unindicted co-conspirators and the current indictees."

A list of unindicted co-conspirators in the Seal case include Ochoa Vasquez, his brother Fabio (Fabito) Ochoa Vasquez, Escobar Gaviria, Alberto Ordiolla, John Garcia and Heriberto Sanchez-Cardinas.

Cardinas was arrested on immigration charges in connection with Seal's murder, but has not been charged in either the state murder case or a pending federal investigation into Seal's death.

The names of some unindicted co-conspirators in Seal's murder case were filed under seal because of a pending federal investigation, according to court records.

Al Winters of the federal Organized Crime Strike Force in New Orleans said Monday there are no charges against Ochoa Vasquez pending in Louisiana and that it is "really Miami's case, not mine."

Federal officials have described Ochoa Vasquez and Escobar Gaviria as leaders of the Medellin cartel of Colombia, which agents have called the most powerful cocaine-smuggling

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, JULY 22, 1986

CRM
202-633-2010

A federal grand jury today indicted three Colombian citizens on charges of obstruction of justice and conspiracy to violate the civil rights of a government witness, Adler (Barry) B. Seal, by contracting for his murder.

Attorney General Edwin Meese III said the three-count indictment was returned in U.S. District Court in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Named as defendants were Fabio Ochoa-Vasquez, Pablo Escobar-Gaviria, and Rafael Cardona-Salazar.

In addition to the charge that the defendants deprived Seal of rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, the indictment charged that they caused persons to travel in interstate commerce on a murder-for-hire assignment, and that they committed an obstruction of justice.

The indictment alleged that the three defendants were members of the Medellin Cartel, which since 1978 has been responsible for smuggling multi-ton quantities of cocaine into the United States.

Seal, who had testified against the Medellin Cartel, was fatally shot with an automatic pistol on February 19, 1986, in Baton Rouge.

245B-7-1045A

b7C

Fabio Ochoa-Vasquez is the brother of Jorge Ochoa-Vasquez, who was until recently awaiting extradition from Spain to the United States to stand trial on federal narcotics charges in Miami. On July 13, the Spanish government ordered him extradited instead to Colombia, his native land. The transfer has taken place.

Pablo Escobar-Gaviria is also charged in the Miami indictment.

The civil rights violation carries a possible maximum sentence of life imprisonment. The murder-for-hire count carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, a $250,000 fine, or both. The obstruction of justice charge carries a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment, a $250,000 fine, or both.

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Drug Enforcement Administration with the assistance of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

It was supervised by the Justice Department's New Orleans Organized Crime and Racketeering Strike Force in conjunction with the U.S. Attorney offices of the Middle District of Louisiana and the Southern District of Florida.

# # # #

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

INDICTMENT FOR CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE CIVIL RIGHTS, CAUSING TRAVEL IN INTERSTATE COMMERCE FOR THE COMMISSION OF A MURDER FOR HIRE, AND CONSPIRACY TO OBSTRUCT JUSTICE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	CRIMINAL DOCKET NO.
VERSUS	:	SECTION:
FABIO OCHOA-VASQUEZ, a/k/a "Fabito" PABLO ESCOBAR-GAVIRIA, a/k/a "Pablito" RAFAEL CARDONA-SALAZAR, a/k/a "Raffa"	:	VIOLATIONS: 18 USC 241 18 USC 1952(A) 18 USC 371 18 USC 2

The Grand Jury Charges that:

COUNT I

A. AT ALL TIMES MATERIAL TO THIS INDICTMENT:

1. The Medellin Cartel, since 1978, had been responsible, for smuggling multi-ton quantities of cocaine into the United States.

2. The defendants, Fabio Ochoa-Vasquez, a/k/a "Fabito"; Pablo Escobar-Gaviria, a/k/a "Pablito"; and Rafael Cardona-Salazar, a/k/a "Raffa", were members of the Medellin Cartel.

3. Fabio Ochoa-Vasquez, a/k/a "Fabito", is the brother of Jorge Ochoa-Vasquez who was also a member of the Medellin Cartel.

4. Jorge Ochoa-Vasquez and Pablo Escobar-Gaviria, a/k/a "Pablito", were charged, with others, in an indictment pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, No. 84-493 CR King (S). If convicted of all counts of that outstanding indictment, they could have received maximum penalties of life imprisonment without the benefit of parole.

5. Jorge Ochoa-Vasquez was arrested in Spain on November 15, 1984, and was awaiting a decision on whether he was to be extradited to the United States to stand trial on the aforementioned pending indictment in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

6. Adler B. Seal was an important witness and had furnished an affidavit against Jorge Ochoa-Vasquez in the pending extradition proceeding. Seal was also an important witness against Jorge Ochoa-Vasquez and Pablo Escobar-Gaviria, a/k/a "Pablito", in case No. 84-493 CR King (S) in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

B. THE CONSPIRACY:

From on or about November 15, 1984, and continuously thereafter, until on or about February 22, 1986, in the Middle District of Louisiana, the Eastern District of Louisiana, the State of Florida, and elsewhere, Fabio Ochoa-Vasquez, a/k/a "Fabito"; Pablo Escobar-Gaviria, a/k/a "Pablito"; and Rafael Cardona-Salazar, a/k/a "Raffa", defendants herein, did knowingly and intentionally combine, conspire, confederate and agree with divers other persons known and unknown to the grand jury, to

injure, oppress, threaten, and intimidate Adler B. Seal, a citizen of the United States and the State of Louisiana, in the free exercise of rights and privileges secured to him by the Constitution and laws of the United States, that is, the right and privilege to be a witness in a federal judicial proceeding, said conspiracy resulting in the death of Adler B. Seal.

C. OVERT ACTS:

In furtherance of the said conspiracy and to effectuate the purposes thereof, the defendants, Fabio Ochoa-Vasquez, a/k/a "Fabito"; Pablo Escobar-Gaviria, a/k/a "Pablito"; and Rafael Cardona-Salazar, a/k/a "Raffa", and others, committed the following overt act, among other acts, in the Middle District of Louisiana, the Eastern District of Louisiana, the State of Florida, and elsewhere.

1. On or about February 19, 1986, in the Middle District of Louisiana, Fabio Ochoa-Vasquez, a/k/a "Fabito"; Pablo Escobar-Gaviria, a/k/a "Pablito"; and Rafael Cardona-Salazar, a/k/a "Raffa", caused the murder of Adler B. Seal. All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 241.

COUNT II

A. The allegations of fact in Part A. of Count I are incorporated herein by reference.

B. From on or about November 15, 1984, and continuously thereafter, until on or about February 22, 1986, in the Middle District of Louisiana, the Eastern District of Louisiana, the State of Florida, and elsewhere, Fabio Ochoa-Vasquez, a/k/a

"Fabito"; Pablo Escobar-Gaviria, a/k/a "Pablito"; and Rafael Cardona-Salazar, a/k/a "Raffa", did knowingly and intentionally cause Miguel Velez, a/k/a "Carlos Arango" a/k/a "Cubamba", and others to travel in interstate and foreign commerce and to use a facility in interstate and foreign commerce with the intent that the murder of Adler B. Seal be committed, as consideration for a promise or agreement to pay something of pecuniary value, which travel resulted in the commission of that murder, in violation of Louisiana Revised Statute 14:30 and Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1952A and 2.

COUNT III

A. The allegations of fact in Part A of Count I are incorporated herein by reference.

B. THE CONSPIRACY:

From on or about November 15, 1984, and continously thereafter, until on or about February 22, 1986, in the Middle District of Louisiana, the Eastern District of Louisiana, the State of Florida, and elsewhere, Fabio Ochoa-Vasquez, a/k/a "Fabito"; Pablo Escobar-Gaviria, a/k/a "Pablito"; and Rafael Cardona-Salazar, a/k/a "Raffa", defendants herein, did knowingly and intentionally combine, conspire, confederate, and agree with divers other persons known and unknown to the grand jury, to commit an offense against the United States, to wit, to corruptly endeavor to influence, obstruct, and impede the due administration of justice by murdering Adler B. Seal, a witness in a matter pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida entitled United States v. Pablo

Escobar-Gaviria and Jorge Ochoa, et al, Case No. 84-493 CR King (S), in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1503.

C. OVERT ACTS:

In furtherance of the said conspiracy and to effectuate the purposes thereof, the defendants, Fabio Ochoa-Vasquez, a/k/a "Fabito"; Pablo Escobar-Gaviria, a/k/a "Pablito"; and Rafael Cardona-Salazar, a/k/a "Raffa", and others, committed the following overt act, among other acts, in the Middle District of Louisiana, the Eastern District of Louisiana, the State of Florida, and elsewhere.

1. On or about February 19, 1986, in the Middle District of Louisiana, Fabio Ochoa-Vasquez, a/k/a "Fabito"; Pablo Escobar-Gaviria, a/k/a "Pablito"; and Rafael Cardona-Salaar, a/k/a "Raffa", caused the murder of Adler B. Seal. All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

A TRUE BILL:

____
F O R E M A N

____
P. RAYMOND LAMONICA
United States Attorney
Middle District of Louisiana

____
ALBERT J. WINTERS, JR.
Supervisory Trial Attorney
U.S. Department of Justice

____
BRADLEY C. MYERS
Assistant U.S. Attorney
Middle District of Louisiana

July ______, 1986

RETURN THIS SHEET FOR PAYMENT

CRIMINAL COURT SUBPOENA

19th JUDICIAL DISTRICT CRIMINAL COURT

PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE

STATE OF LOUISIANA

RECEIVED SHERIFF 1986 JUL 11 PM 3:00

STATE OF LOUISIANA

VS MIGUEL VELEZ et al

CASE NO 3-86-112; 787 SEC III

CHARGE FIRST DEGREE MURDER; CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT FIRST DEGREE MURDER

TO Thomas Dowd Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation
3801 Biscayne Blvd.
Miami, Fla. 33137

You are hereby commanded to appear in the Nineteenth Judicial Court, 222 St. Louis Street, Governmental Bldg, Criminal Section III, Judge FRANK J. SAIA, Room 607, holden in and for the Parish of East Baton Rouge, on the 18TH day of AUGUST 19 86 10AM, and there remain until discharged by the Court by whom you are summoned to testify to the truth, to the best of your knowledge, in a certain case pending herein between the State of Louisiana, Plaintiff, and MIGUEL VELEZ et al, Defendant, on the part of the STATE

And therefore, you are not to fail under penalty of the law By order of said court this 6TH day of JUNE 19 86 at Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Deputy Clerk of Court for
H M Mike Cannon, Clerk of Court

FOR USE BY SHE...

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS SUBPOENA, PLEASE CONTACT DISTRICT ATTORNEY INVESTIGATOR TOM MEYERS AT 504-389-3431.

PLEASE ADVISE OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

b7C [redacted]

245D-7-1046

Searched ______
Serialized ______
Indexed ______
Filed ______

CRIMINAL COURT SUBPOENA

19th JUDICIAL DISTRICT CRIMINAL COURT

PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE

STATE OF LOUISIANA

STATE OF LOUISIANA

VS. MIGUEL VELEZ, et.al.

CASE NO. 3-86-112, 3-86-787 SEC. III

CHARGE: First Degree Murder/Conspiracy To Commit First Degree Murder

TO [redacted] Federal Bureau of Investigation, Miami, Florida

3. C. . . C. J. [redacted] b7C

You are hereby commanded to appear in the Nineteenth Judicial Court, 222 St Louis Street, Governmental Bldg, Criminal Section III, Judge Frank Saia, Room 607, holden in and for the Parish of East Baton Rouge, on the 18th day of August 1986, at 10 A. M, and there remain until discharged by the Court by whom you are summoned to testify to the truth, to the best of your knowledge, in a certain case pending herein between the State of Louisiana, Plaintiff, and MIGUEL VELEZ, et.al., Defendent, on the part of the State.

And therefore, you are not to fail under penalty of the law. By order of said court this ______ day of ______ 19 ____, at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Deputy Clerk of Court for
H M. Mike Cannon, Clerk of Court

FOR USE BY SHERIFF'S OFFICE (ONLY)

RECEIVED ______ Date ______ Signature

☐ SERVED ☐ Personal ☐ Domiciliary

☐ NO SUCH NUMBER ☐ MOVED TO ______

☐ UNABLE TO LOCATE

REMARKS. ______

Date ______ Deputy ______ Sheriff

[redacted] b7C

245D-7-1048

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FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

TIMES-PICAYUNE/STATES-ITEM
New Orleans, La., Sec. B,
Date p. 5, 8/3/86
Edition Morning

Title ADLER BERRIMAN SEAL, aka
ET AL

Character or Classification OCDE TASK FORCE CASE (OO: NO) NO 245D-7

Submitting Office NO

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Move trial, Seal suspect asks

By The Associated Press

BATON ROUGE — A suspect in the machine-gun killing of U S drug informant Adler "Barry" Seal has asked a district judge for a change of venue in a motion claiming intense media coverage has portrayed Seal as a modern day Robin Hood

The trial atmosphere surrounding Jose Renteria-Campo has been "utterly corrupted by the press coverage," said a motion filed Friday before District Judge Frank Saia

Renteria-Campo, 38, of Colombia is one of four suspects facing charges of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder in connection with Seal's slaying Trial is set for Jan 12

"Reports prior to and after the death of Seal have often portrayed him as a romantic adventurer who thought of himself and was regarded by others as a sort of 20th century Robin Hood," the motion said

Seal, a top cocaine smuggler turned federal informant, was shot dead Feb 19 gangland-style, a death prosecutors say is linked to powerful Colombian cocaine traffickers Seal has testified against

"The case against Seal is frequently cast in the most sensational terms, with emphasis on the Hispanic background of the defendants and the extraordinary security precautions," the motion said

Seal was expected to be a star witness against reputed drug lord Jorge Ochoa-Vasquez, who was recently extradited from prison in Spain to his native Colombia after efforts to have him extradited to the United States failed

His brother, Fabio Ochoa-Vasquez, and fugitive drug trafficker Pablo Escobar-Gaviria are named as unindicted co-conspirators in Seal's murder

Federal prosecutors said the three men are leaders of one of the most powerful cocaine-trafficking organizations in the world

Other suspects being held in Seal's death are Miguel Velez, 35, of Miami, Bernardo Antonio Vasquez, 32, of Hialeah, Fla; and Luis Carlos Quintero-Cruz, 32, of Colombia

Renteria-Campo's motion to have the trial moved was one of 70 filed by defense lawyers and state prosecutors after three days of hearings on the case

In a motion earlier, Renteria-Campo and Cruz requested to be tried apart from their alleged co-conspirators, court records show. The motion said evidence against the other defendants might unfairly prejudice the jury against all the defendants

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FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
PAGE 9A
"MORNING ADVOCATE"
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Date 7/26/86
Edition MORNING

b7C

Title [redacted] AKA;
ADLER BERRIMAN SEAL

Character or Classification OCDE TASK FORCE-INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING
NO 245D-7

Submitting Office NEW ORLEANS

Murder trial security up

By GIBBS ADAMS
Advocate staff writer

Security is being stepped up on the sixth floor of the Governmental Building, where the first-degree murder trial of four men accused of killing Barry Seal will be held

Seal, a federal drug informer, was assassinated as he parked his Cadillac at the Salvation Army halfway house at 6 p m. Feb. 19 He was sentenced to spend nights at the halfway house as part of the probationary sentence imposed by U S District Judge Frank J Polozola for Seal's federal drug charges

The trial of Miguel Velez, Luis Carlos Quintero-Cruz, Bernardo Antonio Vasquez and Jose Renteria-Campo is scheduled to begin Aug 18 in 19th Judicial District Court

Deputy Sheriff Mike Barnett said temporary walls to be constructed on the north end of the sixth floor will permit more effective screening of people entering the courtroom during the trial

Those entering the courtroom will go through a metal detector, physical search and X-ray before being admitted, Barnett said

Bulletproof glass already has been installed to block spectators from the rest of the courtroom Barnett said no standing will be permitted in the courtroom throughout the trial over which Judge Frank Saia will preside

In addition, Barnett said, the sheriff's office will take "extra pains to make sure of no contact" between members of the jury and the defendants The jury will be sequestered, he said

Bobby Gascon, chief administrative officer to Mayor Pat Screen, estimated the new security facilities will cost between $2,000 and $3,000

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
PAGE 1B & 2B
"MORNING ADVOCATE"
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Date 7/30/86
Edition MORNING

Title [redacted] AKA; ADLER BERRIMAN SEAL

Character or Classification OCDE TASK FORCE-INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING
NO 245D-7

Submitting Office NEW ORLEANS

Trial date reset in Seal murder case

By JOHN SEMIEN
Advocate staff writer

District Judge Frank Saia on Tuesday set a Jan 12, 1987, trial date for four men charged in the machine-gun slaying of federal drug informant Adler "Barry" Seal, despite objections from state prosecutors and one defendant

Saia's decision was supported by attorneys for three of the men, who said they needed more time to prepare their defenses than the previously scheduled Aug 18 trial date would allow

But Richard Sharpstein, an attorney for Miguel Velez, 36, of Miami, Fla , said Velez was prepared to go to trial Tuesday

After the hearing, Sharpstein said Velez was "very disgruntled and upset" about the delay.

"Naturally, I want what my client wants," Sharpstein said "I think he's entitled to a fair and speedy trial It will be a fair trial but it won't be speedy "

Assistant District Attorney Prem Burns on Tuesday called the extension "very excessive" in objections to Saia's ruling

Saia said he considered court costs and consulted other district judges in his decision and "we can live with Jan 12 "

Burns objected to Saia's decision Monday to consider an extension "for the record," but said she did not want the case to be overturned because the request was denied

Saia on Tuesday also continued a hearing on nearly 80 motions filed by Velez and co-defendants Bernardo Antonio Vasquez, 32, of Hialeah, Fla., Jose Renteria-Campo, 38, of Colombia and Carlos Quintero-Cruz, 32, of Colombia

The four men are charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit first-degree murder in Seal's death

Attorneys on Tuesday continued arguments that began Monday for an extension

"He's on trial for his life, your honor, and he won't have a second chance," said Bob Moore, an attorney for Cruz

Wayne Walker, an attorney for Vasquez, asked Saia whether something could be done about providing a "less restrictive environment" because Vasquez has been in solitary confinement in the Parish Prison for five months

But Saia said he did not have the power to place restrictions on city-parish officials charged with protecting Vasquez while he is in jail

In other action, Saia denied a motion by attorneys for Renteria-Campo to suppress evidence seized by FBI and U S

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FBI/DOJ
[redacted] NEW ORLEANS

Trial

CONTINUED FROM 1B

Immigration and Naturalization Service agents when Renteria-Campo was arrested Feb. 20 in a Miami airport.

Attorney Mike Small said agents had no legal basis for detaining Campo or securing his consent to search his belongings.

"Five agents surrounded him the moment he deplaned and hustled him off," Small told Saia. "He did not go voluntarily in a spirit of cooperation . . . . The detention was illegal, so the consent to search was illegal and the evidence should be suppressed"

Saia said agents had received a physical description of Campo-Renteria and knew he was an illegal alien, which gave them cause to detain him

Saia also heard testimony from a Louisiana State Police firearms identification officer who said a neutron activation test performed on Velez after his arrest Feb. 20 did not conclusively indicate he had fired a weapon.

Jim L. Church said he places a six-hour cutoff on lapsed time allowable for an effective test for gunshot residue on the hands of suspects.

He said the test was performed on Velez 13 hours after Seal was shot, and did not turn up sufficient residue to make a positive reading.

Saia asked Burns and Velez attorney Jack Dampf to submit written arguments on a defense motion to stop the state from using the test as evidence

Defense motions under consideration by Saia this week include attempts to have the charges thrown out, as well as requests for additional information, separate trials and questioning prospective jurors individually.

Prosecution motions include the state's notice of its intent to seek the death penalty.

The four defendants have been held without bond since Saia revoked the $25 million cash bonds that had been previously set.

Seal was shot to death with a 45-caliber Mac 10 machine gun Feb. 19 as he parked his Cadillac at the Salvation Army Community Treatment Center.

Seal was dodging a $500,000 contract on his life while serving a six-month probation sentence at the Salvation Army facility as part of a plea bargain with federal officials in Baton Rouge.

Court records filed in the case this week link the four suspects to reputed Colombian drug lords Fabio Ochoa-Vasquez, Pablo Escobar-Gaviria and Raphael, who are among 14 unindicted co-conspirators in Seal's murder.

All four men are reputed members of the Medellin Cartel, an organization responsible for smuggling multi-ton shipments of cocaine into the United States, according to federal officials

Seal was expected to be a star federal witness against the cartel in a federal cocaine-smuggling case in Miami

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FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-78)

FBI

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9/8/86

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NEW ORLEANS (245D-7)
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MIGUEL VELEZ, AKA; ET AL; ADLER B. SEAL - VICTIM; OCDE TASK FORCE; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - MURDER; OO:NEW ORLEANS.

RENOTELETYPE TO NEW YORK, DATED JULY 14, 1986 AND NYO TELCAL TO NEW ORLEANS, DATED JULY 16, 1986.

UPON A REVIEW OF CAPTIONED MATTER, IT APPEARS THAT NO ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION REMAINS AT NYO, THEREFORE, THIS MATTER IS CONSIDERED RUC BY NEW YORK.

1 - New York
1 - Supervisor C 23
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Approved: ______________ Transmitted ______________ Per ______________

NOTE: AFTER APPROVAL, PLEASE ROUTE THIS DOCUMENT BACK TO THE WORD PROCESSING SUPERVISOR, NOT TO THE TELETYPE ROOM.

WP Initials: ________

Memorandum

To SAC, NEW ORLEANS (245B-7) (P) Date 10/8/86

From SSA [redacted] b7C

Subject MIGUEL VELEZ;
ET AL;
ADLER B. SEAL - VICTIM
OCDE TASK FORCE CASE;
OOJ - MURDER
OO: NEW ORLEANS

Attached are eleven (11) subpoenas accepted by SA [redacted] on 10/6/86, at [redacted] Louisiana, at approximately 4:00 p.m. The subpoenas received were for the following FBI Agents:

SA [redacted]
SA
SA
SA
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The subpoenas require the appearance of the above agents in the case entitled, "State of Louisiana vs Miguel Velez; Et Al Case #3-86-787, 3/86-112." The charge in this case is First Degree Murder and Conspiracy to Commit First Degree Murder. The above agents are to appear in the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Court, 222 St. Louis Street, Governmental Building, Criminal Section III, before Judge FRANK J. SAIA, Room 602 in the Parish of East Baton Rouge on January 12, 1987, at 10:00 a.m.

A point of contact was given as [redacted] District Attorney's Office, telephone number [redacted]

245B-7-1095

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FBI — NEW ORLEANS
[redacted]

3 - New Orleans
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1 - PLA New Orleans (INfo)
JLA:maw
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[redacted] advised SA [redacted] is aware of above and has the subpoenas Jim Rand

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FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) 12-A
Morning Advocate
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Date 10/22/86
Edition

Title SEAL SLAYING WITNESS WON'T SPEAK WITH DEFENSE, PROSECUTORS SAY

Character or Classification 245B-7

Submitting Office New Orleans

Seal slaying witness won't speak with defense, prosecutors say

By JOHN SEMIEN
Advocate staff writer

State prosecutors say a federally protected witness does not want to speak with attorneys for men accused of the machine-gun murder of drug informant Adler "Barry" Seal as was alleged by an attorney at Tuesday's pretrial hearing before District Judge Frank Saia

Attorney Sam Dalton said Luis Montoya passed a note to his client, suspect Bernardo Antonio Vasquez, while both were at the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison

Dalton said the note indicated that Montoya wanted to speak with attorneys defending Vasquez and three other men facing conspiracy and first-degree murder charges in connection with Seal's death

Saia is scheduled to receive the note Wednesday morning for consideration in Dalton's request that defense attorneys have access to Montoya

But after Tuesday's hearing, Assistant District Attorney Prem Burns said prosecutors had contacted Montoya's attorney and "he has not agreed to talk to them"

"He is not going to talk to them," she said "Mr Montoya is either going to write a letter to the judge or phone him about it"

Burns said she did not know whether the note to Vasquez is genuine

Dalton didn't reveal the contents of the note to Saia, but said he believed Montoya had previously appeared before a grand jury

He said defense attorneys had subpoenaed Montoya to testify, but that Montoya was removed from the Parish Prison by the U S marshal about the time the subpoena was to be served

Dalton urged Saia to allow defense attorneys to interview witnesses such as Montoya without influence from prosecutors or law enforcement officers

He said some witnesses might be less willing to speak candidly if prosecutors and law enforcement officers are present

At the hearing, Burns said Montoya was placed in the federal witness protection program and that he is expected to testify at the trial

His appearance at pretrial hearings is not necessary, she said

Saia set a Nov 13 hearing to consider the note and arguments from prosecutors to the possibility of Montoya testifying before trial

In other action, Saia denied Dalton's motion for access to files belonging to the state attorney general's office concerning an investigation of Seal requested by former U S Attorney Stanford O Bardwell Jr

Burns said the investigation began after Seal's murder Saia said he had reviewed the file and it is not relevant to the murder case

"No action was ever taken subsequent to their taking over the investigation," Saia said "Nothing came of it We will reproduce the entire file and seal it for your appeal"

Vasquez, Carlos Quintero-Cruz, Jose Renteria-Campo and Miguel Velez face conspiracy and first-degree murder charges in connection with the Feb 19 machine-gun slaying of Seal

Seal was shot to death by two gunmen while sitting behind the wheel of his car in the parking lot of the Salvation Army Community Treatment Center, according to police reports

Seal was serving a six-month sentence in a half-way house operated at the center as part of a plea agreement on federal drug charges

Tuesday was the second day of hearings on pretrial motions filed by defense attorneys and state prosecutors in the case

On Monday, Saia granted defense motions that will provide for sequestered interviews during jury selection and give attorneys and prosecutors additional jury challenges in a Jan 12 trial

Saia has also set a Dec 10 hearing on testimony concerning a Renteria-Campo motion to move the trial

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FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) 12-A
Morning Advocate
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Date 10/22/86
Edition

Title SEAL SLAYING WITNESS WON'T SPEAK WITH DEFENSE, PROSECUTORS SAY
Character or Classification 245B-7
Submitting Office New Orleans

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Seal slaying witness won't speak with defense, prosecutors say

By JOHN SEMIEN
Advocate staff writer

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Saia set a Nov 13 hearing to consider the note and arguments from prosecutors to the possibility of Montoya testifying before trial

In other action, Saia denied Dalton's motion for access to files belonging to the state attorney general's office concerning an investigation of Seal requested by former U S Attorney Stanford O Bardwell Jr

Burns said the investigation began after Seal's murder Saia said he had reviewed the file and it is not relevant to the murder case

"No action was ever taken subsequent to their taking over the investigation," Saia said "Nothing came of it We will reproduce the entire file and seal it for your appeal"

Vasquez, Carlos Quintero-Cruz, Jose Renteria-Campo and Miguel Velez face conspiracy and first-degree murder charges in connection with the Feb 19 machine-gun slaying of Seal

Seal was shot to death by two gunmen while sitting behind the wheel of his car in the parking lot of the Salvation Army Community Treatment Center, according to police reports

Seal was serving a six-month sentence in a half-way house operated at the center as part of a plea agreement on federal drug charges

Tuesday was the second day of hearings on pretrial motions filed by defense attorneys and state prosecutors in the case

On Monday, Saia granted defense motions that will provide for sequestered interviews during jury selection and give attorneys and prosecutors additional jury challenges in a Jan 12 trial

Saia has also set a Dec 10 hearing on testimony concerning a Renteria-Campo motion to move the trial.

245B-7-1097

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FBI — NEW ORLEANS
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FBI/DOJ

FD-36 (Rev. 8-29-85)

FBI

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Date 10/3/86

TO: SAC, KANSAS CITY

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (245B-7) (P)

COINROLL;
MIGUEL VELEZ, AKA;
ET AL;
ADLER B. SEAL - VICTIM
OCDE TASK FORCE CASE;
OOJ - MURDER
OO: NEW ORLEANS

Enclosed for Kansas City are the original and one copy of a Federal Grand Jury Subpoena.

For the information of Kansas City, this matter involves the contract hit of ADLER B. SEAL in February, 1986, at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, by Colombians. The hit was ordered by [redacted] the head of the "Medellin Cartel." b7C

LEADS:

KANSAS CITY DIVISION

AT WESTWOOD, KANSAS

Serve enclosed Federal Grand Jury Subpoena.

2 - Kansas City (Enc. 2)
2 - New Orleans
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FD-36 (Rev 8-29-85)

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Date 10/10/86

FM NEW ORLEANS (66-2606) (245B-7) (P)

TO DIRECTOR Priority bch

ATTENTION INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT SECTION

BT

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REFERENCE BUREAU TELETYPE TO NEW ORLEANS 9/13/86.

SYNOPSIS OF INVESTIGATION: REFERENCE IS MADE TO NEW ORLEANS FILE 245B-7, BUREAU FILE 245B-76 ENTITLED, "MIGUEL VELEZ, ET AL; ADLER B. SEAL-VICTIM; ORGANIZED CRIME DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE INVESTIGATION; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE-MURDER." IN THAT CASE ADLER "BARRY" SEAL WAS A CONVICTED INTERNATIONAL SMUGGLER OF COCAINE AND [redacted] ON FEBRUARY 19, 1986, BARRY SEAL WAS KILLED AT BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA IN AN APPARENT CONTRACT MURDER BY TWO HISPANIC MALES. SEAL WAS SERVING A PRISON SENTENCE AT A HALFWAY HOUSE FACILITY IN BATON ROUGE, AND HAD REFUSED ENTRY

2- New Orleans
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FD-36 (Rev 8-29-85)

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Date ________________

PAGE TWO NO 66-2606 AND 245B-7 UNCLAS

INTO THE WSP. NEW ORLEANS INVESTIGATION LED TO THE ARREST OF SIX HISPANIC MALES, FOUR OF WHOM ARE CURRENTLY CHARGED BY STATE AUTHORITIES IN LOUISIANA FOR FIRST DEGREE MURDER AND CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT FIRST DEGREE MURDER.

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SHOULD THIS INVESTIGATION SUBSEQUENTLY PROVE THAT BARRY SEAL WAS MURDERED TO PREVENT HIS TESTIMONY, THEN THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, MIAMI, FLORIDA MAY USE OUR TESTIMONY OF SEAL AGAINST OTHER DEFENDANTS.

[redacted]

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FD-36 (Rev 8-29-85)

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PAGE THREE NO 66-2606 AND 245B-7 UNCLAS

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PAGE FOUR NO 66-2606 AND 245B-7 UNCLAS

[redacted]

U.S. GOVERNMENT ATTORNEY: [redacted]

ORGANIZED CRIME STRIKE FORCE, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA IS THE SPONSORING ATTORNEY IN THIS MATTER. [redacted]

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FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) 1-B, 2-B
Morning Advocate
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Date 10/26/86
Edition

Title SECURITY HEAVY FOR SEAL CASE MURDER SUSPECTS

Character or Classification 245B-7
Submitting Office New Orleans

Security heavy for Seal case murder suspects

By JOHN SEMIEN
Advocate staff writer

The bulletproof shield and armed guards hardly seem necessary when Miguel Velez, Carlos Quintero-Cruz, Bernardo Antonio Vasquez and Jose Renteria-Campo enter District Court

The four, clad in orange Parish Prison pajamas, are usually smiling and flanked by their attorneys

They don't look like hired killers who state prosecutors say executed a $500,000 contract on the federal government's No 1 drug informant

Their mild appearance provides a stark contrast to images of a violent Colombian cocaine war that hit the streets of Baton Rouge with the Feb 19 murder of Adler "Barry" Seal

Seal died behind the wheel of a parked Cadillac in a hail of machine-gun fire

The killer wielded a "Miami chopper," the MAC 10 45-caliber machine gun favored by Colombian hit men.

Within 48 hours of the shooting, Velez, Quintero-Cruz, Vasquez and Renteria-Campo were in custody

After several well-publicized court appearances, District Judge Frank Saia last week set a Dec 10 hearing on whether the defendants, charged with conspiracy to commit first-degree murder and first-degree murder, should stand trial in another city

Meanwhile, state and federal prosecutors unraveling the murder plot are alleging an elaborate conspiracy that united powerful drug lords in Colombia and Miami in solving what was a major problem with south Florida federal prosecutors

Florida drug indictments, based on Seal's work as an undercover DEA informant, had shaken the leadership of Colombia's Medellin cartel, prompting the contract on Seal's life in 1984

Seal, a trusted courier of cartel leaders Jorge Ochoa-Vasquez, Pablo Escobar-Gaviria and Carlos Lehder-Rivas, set up a DEA sting operation involving the cartel's trafficking expansion into Nicaragua to beat a 10-year prison sentence

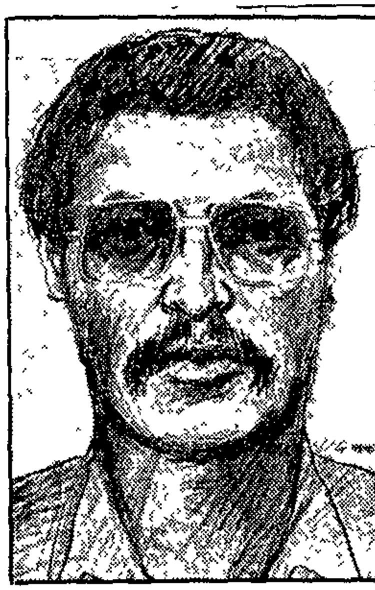
It was the biggest in a string of successful sting operations he masterminded, ultimately providing the Reagan administration with evidence that the Sandanistas were funding their leftist government with cocaine smuggling

Escobar-Gaviria, Ochoa-Vasquez and Lehder-Rivas were indicted in Miami on cocaine trafficking charges but were able to elude extradition and arrest efforts by United States and Colombian officials

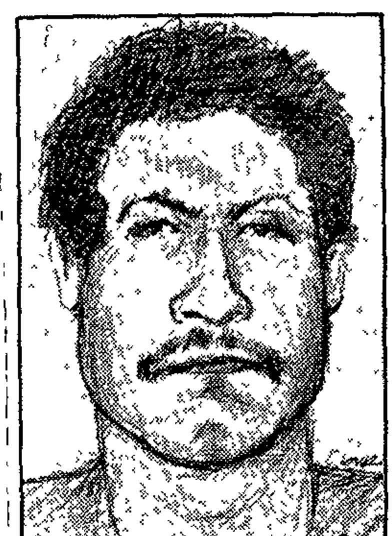
Supplying an estimated 80 percent of the cocaine funneled to the United States had made all three men billionaires, while a string of bloody assassinations had kept them on the move

But Ochoa-Vasquez was arrested in

SEE SUSPECTS, 2B

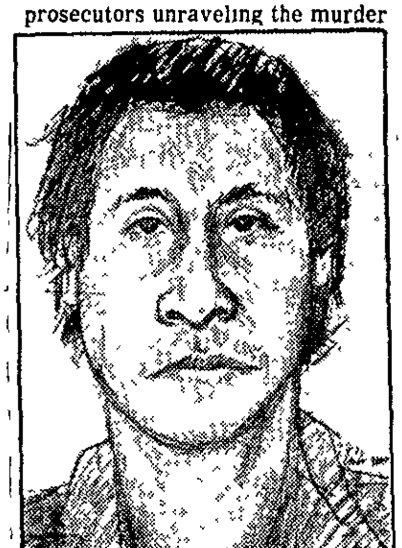


Bernardo Antonio Vasquez



DRAWINGS BY DENNIS LOWE

Miguel Velez



Carlos Quintero-Cruz



Jose Renteria-Campo

FBI — NEW ORLEANS

FBI/DOJ

FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) 1-B, 2-B
Morning Advocate
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Date 10/26/86
Edition

Title SECURITY HEAVY FOR SEAL CASE MURDER SUSPECTS

Character or Classification 245B-7
Submitting Office New Orleans

Suspects

CONTINUED FROM 1B

Spain in November 1984, based on an extradition request issued on the strength of Seal's testimony in the Florida case

On Jan 22, 1986, Spain's National High Court of Justice found sufficient grounds to extradite Ochoa-Vasquez to the United States

The ruling accelerated efforts by the cartel to silence Seal Those efforts ended in the parking lot of the Salvation Army Community Treatment Center on Airline Highway, according to court records

Ochoa-Vasquez was eventually extradited to Colombia on a separate extradition request filed by officials there He was released after paying a fine on charges of illegally exporting fighting bulls

Ochoa-Vasquez promptly disappeared and has avoided extradition efforts by federal prosecutors in Florida.

Seal is one of four murder victims officials have linked to Colombian drug traffickers snagged in the Florida drug case

An arrest warrant for Velez and Vasquez in connection with Seal's murder lists the deaths of cartel members Pablo Ochilla, Pablo Carrera and a man only identified as "the brother-in-law of Jorge Ochoa" as other acts of retribution in the Florida case entitled United States of America vs Pablo Escobar-Gaviria et al

Assistant U S Attorney Al Winters of the New Orleans Organized Crime Strike Force, on Friday said that murders by hired assassins are common in the battle for power raging among Colombian drug lords.

"They are extremely violent," Winters said "Violence goes hand-in-hand with drug trafficking of this level"

In court records filed in connection with Seal's murder case, state prosecutors said there was an early conspiracy to murder Seal from late 1984 until June 1985, when the conspirators, who are not identified, became inactive

Records on the murder indictments list 14 unindicted co-conspirators, including Escobar-Gaviria, Fabio Ochoa-Vasquez, who is the brother of Jorge Ochoa-Vasquez, and reputed drug trafficker Raphael Cardona Salazar

The records provide no details on the earlier conspiracy, but accuses Velez, whose aliases include Carlos Arango and "Cumbamba," with being a part of both active attempts on Seal's life

The discovery of Velez's aliases by state prosecutors also uncovered a 1981 arrest on second-degree murder charges in connection with drug-related killings

Under the alias Carlos Arango, Velez was arrested in New York for the March 1981 murders of Roselda Patino and Luis Restrepo

News reports described the two victims as reputed cocaine dealers who had failed to make good on a $43,000 payment for a pound of cocaine

Velez was acquitted in 1983 after a mistrial

Witnesses against Velez included convicted hitman-turned-state's witness Hugo Echevarria-Brand, who testified that he and Velez worked for a New Jersey-based Colombian cocaine ring when they kidnapped Patino and Restrepo from a Manhattan apartment, shot them and dumped the bodies near a warehouse in Long Island

At the time of his 1981 arrest, Velez also was wanted in connection with a string of drug-related murders in New Jersey, according to news reports.

State prosecutors said Velez had been hired as an "enforcer and bodyguard" for Salazar in Miami when traffickers placed the contract on Seal's life in 1984

He allegedly traveled to Colombia in May 1985 to obtain permission to take over the contract on Seal's life, according to court records

Velez and Renteria-Campo were arrested within hours of Seal's murder after allegedly fleeing New Orleans

Unable to obtain a flight out of New Orleans International Airport, Velez was en route to Montgomery, Ala , in a taxi that collided with a deer in Meridian, Miss , early on Feb 20

Meridian police identified him from a police bulletin as a suspect in Seal's murder

Renteria-Campo boarded a flight from New Orleans but was arrested on immigration charges as he got off the plane in Miami

It was Renteria-Campo's alleged ties with Vasquez and Escobar-Gaviria that led to his arrest by the FBI on Feb 21, along with Quintero-Cruz and Colombian national John Jairo Cardona-Garcia

At a pretrial hearing, FBI agents testified that an informant reported Vasquez's arrival in New Orleans in early February and referred to him as a Miami associate of Escobar-Gaviria

The informant kept close contact with Vasquez and led agents to an Algiers apartment where Vasquez was arrested

Quintero-Cruz and Cardinas was arrested at a Marrero residence that had been visited by Vasquez while he was under surveillance

In statements to U S Immigration and Naturalization Service officials, Quintero-Cruz has said he left Medellin, Colombia, on Feb 8, flying to Panama City, Panama and then to Mexico

Quintero-Cruz said he illegally entered the United States on Feb. 15, according to court records.

Garcia, who has not been indicted in connection with the murder, is still being held by immigration officials on illegal entry charges

Salazar, Escobar-Gaviria and Fabio Ochoa-Vasquez face federal indictments for obstruction of justice and conspiracy to violate the civil rights of Seal in an expanding federal investigation headed by Winters.

Winters described Salazar as a member of the cartel who was "involved, principally, in the transportation of cocaine from Colombia" to bases in the United States

He said Salazar managed drug distribution networks in Miami and in Los Angeles, where he faces separate indictments for drug trafficking

Salazar has been a fugitive since the 1985 California indictments

Winters said the federal investigation is continuing but declined to comment on the possibility of other indictments

FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) 8-B
Morning Advocate
Baton Rouge, LA

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Date 11/13/86
Edition

Title MOTION IN SEAL MURDER CASE TO BE HEARD

Character
or
Classification 245B-7
Submitting Office New Orleans

Motion in Seal murder case to be heard

By JOHN SEMIEN
Advocate staff writer

District Judge Frank Saia will hear arguments Thursday on a request by state prosecutors that he suppress the names and addresses of potential jurors in the trial of four men charged in the machine-gun slaying of drug informant Adler "Barry" Seal.

In a motion on the request, Assistant District Attorney Prem Burns cited "chilling factors" in the murder case that could intimidate potential jurors.

But an attorney for defendant Jose Renteria-Campo on Wednesday opposed the request, saying it would deny defendants their right to properly challenge jurors

The motion is one of several Saia is expected to review Thursday concerning conspiracy and first-degree murder charges against Renteria-Campo and defendants Carlos Quintero-Cruz, Miguel Velez and Bernardo Antonio Vasquez.

In the motion, Burns describes the suspects as "operatives" of the "Medellin Cartel" — a Colombia-based cocaine ring linked to a string of murders in retaliation of court actions against its members in Colombia

"Among Colombian officials reputed to have been murdered by the cartel in retaliation for their anti-drug smuggling activities is former Minister of Justice Rodrigo Lara Bonilla," an attached memorandum of authority said.

"Several judges, including Tulio Manuel Castro Gil, the judge in charge of the investigation into Lara Bonilla's death, have also been murdered"

The memorandum also noted that cartel members are under federal indictments for conspiracy to violate Seal's civil rights in connection with the case and violations of the Racketeer Influence and Corrupt Organization Act in a federal drug case pending in the Southern District of Florida

In the motion, Burns said pre-trial hearings in the case show Seal was murdered because he was a federal witness scheduled to testify against high-ranking members of the cartel.

The motion said five witnesses in the Federal Witness Protection Program will be called to testify in the murder trial, scheduled for Jan. 12, 1987.

". . The trial jury will be informed that the witnesses have entered the Federal Witness Protection Program for their protection against possible future retaliation due to their trial testimony," the motion said.

Burns said added security measures, such as extra guards for the suspects and a bullet-proof shield installed in a courtroom used by Saia during hearings "are likely to have a chilling effect on the members of the . . jury."

Burns on Monday admitted that the request was unusual but said it is aimed at sheltering potential jurors from pressures concerning the case

"We have an obligation to make sure they feel any verdict they make is free of pressure from either side," Burns said. "I don't think it's ever been done in this district before, but then we never had a case dealing with organized crime before"

The motion said suppressing the names and addresses of potential jurors would not prevent defense attorneys from probing for prejudices or bias

Attorney Michele Fournet said in a memorandum to Saia there has been no evidence of possible threats to jurors in the case.

Suppressing information on the jurors would make challenges by the defense "for all practical purposes worthless"

In the memorandum, Fournet said elaborate security precautions have been taken in the case "without any proof of danger to any of the parties to this proceeding."

The security measures have already created a "highly prejudicial perception" of the defendants, the memorandum said.

". . Information that there will be special procedures to protect jurors can only have a devastating effect on the ability of jurors to remain impartial," the memorandum said "No juror can reasonably be expected to afford the defendants the presumption of innocence under such circumstances."

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FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

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Witness identifies Seal case suspect

By JOHN SEMIEN
Advocate staff writer

Fear caused one eyewitness to the murder of drug informant Adler "Barry" Seal to flee the state and another to hesitate in selecting suspects in police lineups concerning the shooting, according to testimony at a pretrial hearing in the case Thursday

The witnesses testified before District Judge Frank Saia and attorneys for Miguel Velez, Bernardo Antonio Vasquez, Jose Renteria-Campo and Luis Carlos Quintero-Cruz

The four Colombian suspects, appearing in court Thursday in parish prison uniforms, face charges of conspiracy and first-degree murder in connection with Seal's death

Robert Tom Lane, who said he was looking over the Salvation Army parking lot where Seal was killed Feb 19, identified Velez in open court as the driver of a getaway car at the murder scene

Lane told Saia he left town after cooperating with officials investigating the shooting but that a mental picture of Velez's face brought him back to Baton Rouge

"I still can see that face sometimes, at night, when I go to sleep," Lane said "I've run all over I hadn't decided I wasn't going to testify, I just got scared and left"

Lane said he was an employee at the Salvation Army Community Treatment Center The Salvation Army also operates a federal halfway house there where Seal was serving a six-month

SEE SEAL, 6A

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state)
PAGE 1A & 6A
"MORNING ADVOCATE"
BATON ROUGE, LA

Date 11/14/86 b7C

Edition MORNING

Title AKA;
ADLER BERRIMAN SEAL

Character or OCDE TASK FORCE-INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING

Classification NO 245D-7

Submitting Office NEW ORLEANS

245B-7-1107

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SERIALIZED ___ FILED ___
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FBI — NEW ORLEANS

FBI/DOJ

Seal

CONTINUED FROM 1A

probation sentence

Lane said he was sitting on a sofa overlooking the parking lot when two men backed a car into a parking space shortly after 6 p m Feb 19

"I'd say they were there maybe three to five minutes before Mr Seal came in," Lane said "It was just getting around dusk at the time "

Lane said Velez was "the taller man" of the two and that he could not identify the second man in the car

He said the "shorter man" got out of the car and squatted down behind drop boxes located at one end of the lot

The man opened fire on Seal after Seal backed his Cadillac into a parking space about eight feet from the boxes, Lane said

After the shooting, "I walked over to the car, looked in and seen he was dead," Lane said

Lane said he later picked suspects out of police lineups conducted in Baton Rouge and New Orleans before leaving Baton Rouge in July because "I was kind of scared "

Lane said he traveled to New York and Philidelphia but returned to Baton Rouge in October and contacted Assistant District Attorney Prem Burns "because I felt guilty about this and I was tired of running "

"I thought it was unfair, because they took a man's life and he didn't have a chance

"If Barry Seal would have had a gun and had a chance, I wouldn't have said anything," he said about the shooting "I probably would not have said a word I would have walked right off "

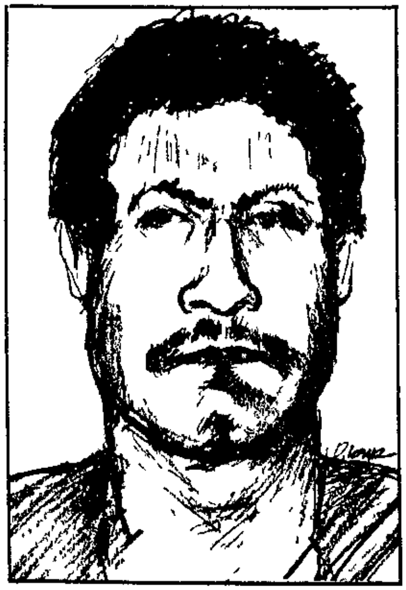
Lane gestured toward Velez when asked whether the man he remembered from the center's parking lot was present in the courtroom

In other testimony, Lane also identified a pair of aqua-color pants as "similar to" pants worn by Velez on the night of the shooting

He also acknowledged a lengthy string of convictions for desertion from the U S Marine Corps, forgery, burglary, robbery and parole violations between 1956 and 1972

Lane was called to the witness stand Thursday to preserve his testimony for trial A video recording was made of his testimony at the request of Burns, who said there was concern he might not stay for the January trial

In later testimony, eyewitness Colleen McGehee said her van was stopped at a red light on Airline Highway in front of the Salvation Army center when she saw a man jump from



Miguel Velez

parking lot and open fire on a man sitting in a parked car

"I saw a man moving around the boxes," McGehee said "As he came around the boxes I saw he had a machine gun, and I thought it must be a joke Then he walked up to the car and shot somebody Then I knew it wasn't a joke "

McGehee said she was uncertain later in identifying suspects in police lineups conducted in Baton Rouge after the murder but did not tell law enforcement officials

"I figured if it had been the right guy, they would have called and if it wasn't they wouldn't do anything bad to him," she said

In later lineups in New Orleans, McGehee said she recognized one of the men from the parking lot and it felt "like when your blood runs cold

"Like when you say, 'Boy, I'm glad he's on the other side of the glass It was that type of reaction," she said

McGehee said she was reluctant to tell officials about the man she recognized in the lineups because she was scared

"Plus I was getting pressure at home from my husband about the danger I was putting him and the kids in," she said "He told me to keep my mouth shut and if they wanted to talk to me, they'd call I couldn't sleep at night So when he was at work, I called "

In other matters, Saia granted a prosecution request that the judge withhold from defense attorneys the names and addresses of potential jurors in the Jan 12 trial

The request drew objections from attorneys for all four defendants, who said the anonymity of jurors would hamper efforts to seat a fair jury

Burns said the measure would help offset the "chilling effect" of heavy security precautions and powerful drug traffickers linked to the case

But attorney Michele Fournet said security measures in the case, including a transparent bulletproof shield in the courtroom, were unnecessary and would cause jurors to fear the defendants

"We certainly don't want that wall there," Fournet said about the defendants and their attorneys "We certainly don't want to be subjected to the indignity of being electronically searched "

Fournet also complained about court filings by Burns that she said contain "totally unsubstantiated allegations" linking the four men to the Medellin cocaine-smuggling cartel of Colombia and a string of drug-related murders

"The pleadings filed by the state are beginning to read like a B-grade novel and beginning to affect the rights of our clients," she said

Saia denied a request by Fournet that the bulletproof shield be removed from the courtroom

Saia said the shield was installed because of another case that had been transferred to district court "before Mr Seal was murdered " He said it would remain for the protection of the suspects

Saia took under advisement testimony from Dan Bartlett, special agent with the U S Immigration and Naturalization Service, on an interview he solicited from Quintero-Cruz shortly after Quintero-Cruz's arrest Feb 21

Defense attorneys have said Quintero-Cruz was arrested illegally on a search warrant for a Marrero house and that the warrant lacked probable cause

Saia said he would rule on a motion to suppress information from the interview when other motions in the



(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
PAGE 1A
"MORNING ADVOCATE"
BATON ROUGE, LA

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Date 11/19/86
Edition MORNING

b7C

Title [redacted] AKA;
ADLER BERRIMAN SEAL

Character or Classification OCDE TASK FORCE-INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING
NO 245D-7
Submitting Office NEW ORLEANS

Seal murder, drug cartel linked in Fla. indictment

By JOHN SEMIEN
Advocate staff writer

The contract murder of drug informant Adler "Barry" Seal has been linked to an elaborate cocaine-trafficking conglomerate in a 39-count indictment charging reputed leaders of Colombia's Medellin Cartel with federal RICO statute violations

The indictment was returned by a federal grand jury in Miami on Aug 25 but was under seal in the Southern District of Florida until Tuesday, according to Assistant U S Attorney Richard Gregorie

The 50-page indictment gives a detailed description of a smuggling enterprise allegedly operated by Jorge, Fabio and Juan David Ochoa-Vasquez, Pablo Escobar-Gaviria and Carlos Lehder beginning in 1978

The indictment charges the five reputed cocaine czars committed racketeering through acts of murder, narcotics violations and travel and use of communication facilities

They participated in a continuing criminal enterprise that also involved Gonzalo Rodriguez-Gacha, Rafael Cardona-Salazar and Federico Vaughan, formerly an assistant to the Nicaraguan Minister of the Interior, the indictment charges

An unidentified defendant in the indictment is listed only as John Doe

Fabio Ochoa-Vasquez, Escobar-Gaviria and Cardona-Salazar already face federal indictments here on charges that they violated Seal's civil rights in ordering his murder

The three men also are unindicted co-conspirators in a state case charging four Colombian nationals with conspiracy and first-degree murder in Seal's death

Gregorie on Tuesday called the indictment "a large part of the Colombian cocaine war" being waged by federal officials against traffickers.

"The importance is it identifies the cartel," Gregorie said. "It's an indictment that lays out the whole enterprise and describes their cooperation in a joint venture"

Gregorie said the cartel routinely used violence in dealing with employees such as Seal, who turned out to be a federal informant

"They provided for the protection of the enterprise by killing discordant employees, and he fell in the latter category," he said

In the indictment, the Ochoa-Vasquez brothers, Escobar-Gaviria and Lehder were described as managers of separate cocaine

SEE DRUGS, 4A

245D-7-1111

Drugs

CONTINUED FROM 1A

manufacturing and distribution groups that pooled resources and manpower under the cartel

Lehder was described as an "on-site operational supervisor for cartel operations," according to a news release on the indictment.

Cardona-Salazar allegedly organized smuggling operations into the United States and protected cartel operations, sometimes resorting to murder.

The indictment said that from 1981 to 1985 this operation was responsible for the production, distribution and transportation of at least 58 tons of cocaine into the United States

It describes the cartel's clandestine production of cocaine from coca paste purchased in Peru and Bolivia and its employment of pilots and "transportation groups" to funnel the drug into the United States.

The indictment said the cartel routinely "arranged for the murder of informants and dissenting employees" and accuses Cardona-Salazar of causing the Dec. 25, 1978, murder of Antonio Arles Vargas

In March 1984, the indictment alleges Jorge Ochoa-Vasquez and Escobar-Gaviria recruited Seal to fly 1,500 kilos of cocaine from Colombia to the United States "to be ultimately delivered to the Southern District of Florida"

Seal has testified that he was an undercover informant for the Drug Enforcement Administration at the time, setting up a sting operation that ultimately gave federal authorities evidence that the Sandinistas were involved in cocaine trafficking

The indictment said Seal took delivery of 1,452 pounds of cocaine in Managua from cartel associates that included Escobar-Gaviria, Vaughan and Rodriguez-Gacha and flew the cargo to the United States June 25, 1984

Vaughan allegedly used his government position to assist the cartel in setting up cocaine conversion laboratories and distribution facilities in Nicaragua, according to the indictment

After delivering the drugs to the United States, the indictment said, Seal piloted a plane that carried $1 5 million "and other supplies" to Nicaragua July 7, 1984

There, Vaughan and Escobar-Gaviria allegedly asked him to deliver an additional 900 kilograms of cocaine to the United States.

But Seal's identity came to light shortly after the operation, prompting the cartel to take out a contract on his life

"In or about December 1984, Rafael Cardona-Salazar displayed a video tape of Barry Seal to Max Mermelstein, identified Seal as a United States Government witness and informed Mermelstein of a 'contract' to kidnap or murder Seal," the indictment said.

Gregorie described Mermelstein as an unindicted co-conspirator in the Florida case but would not elaborate on his identity

Mermelstein also is listed as an unindicted co-conspirator in the state murder case in Baton Rouge

State prosecutors have alleged that Miguel Velez, one of four men facing conspiracy and first-degree murder charges in Seal's death, was a part of the early conspiracy to kill Seal that involved Mermelstein and Cardona-Salazar.

Velez and three other defendants in the state case are accused of carrying out the plot to kill Seal Feb 19

On that date, the federal witness was shot to death with a 45-caliber Mac 10 machine gun as he parked his car in the front lot of the Salvation Army Community Treatment Center

Seal had been serving a six-month probation sentence at a halfway house operated at the center on charges against him stemming from a separate federal drug case

Other defendants in the state murder case are Bernardo Antonio Vasquez, Jose Renteria-Campo and Carlos Quintero-Cruz.

Gregorie on Tuesday said federal officials have not been able to arrest the alleged leaders of the cartel named in the Florida indictments.

RICO stands for the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations statute, which has been used by federal prosecutors in Louisiana to prosecute political figures in corruption cases

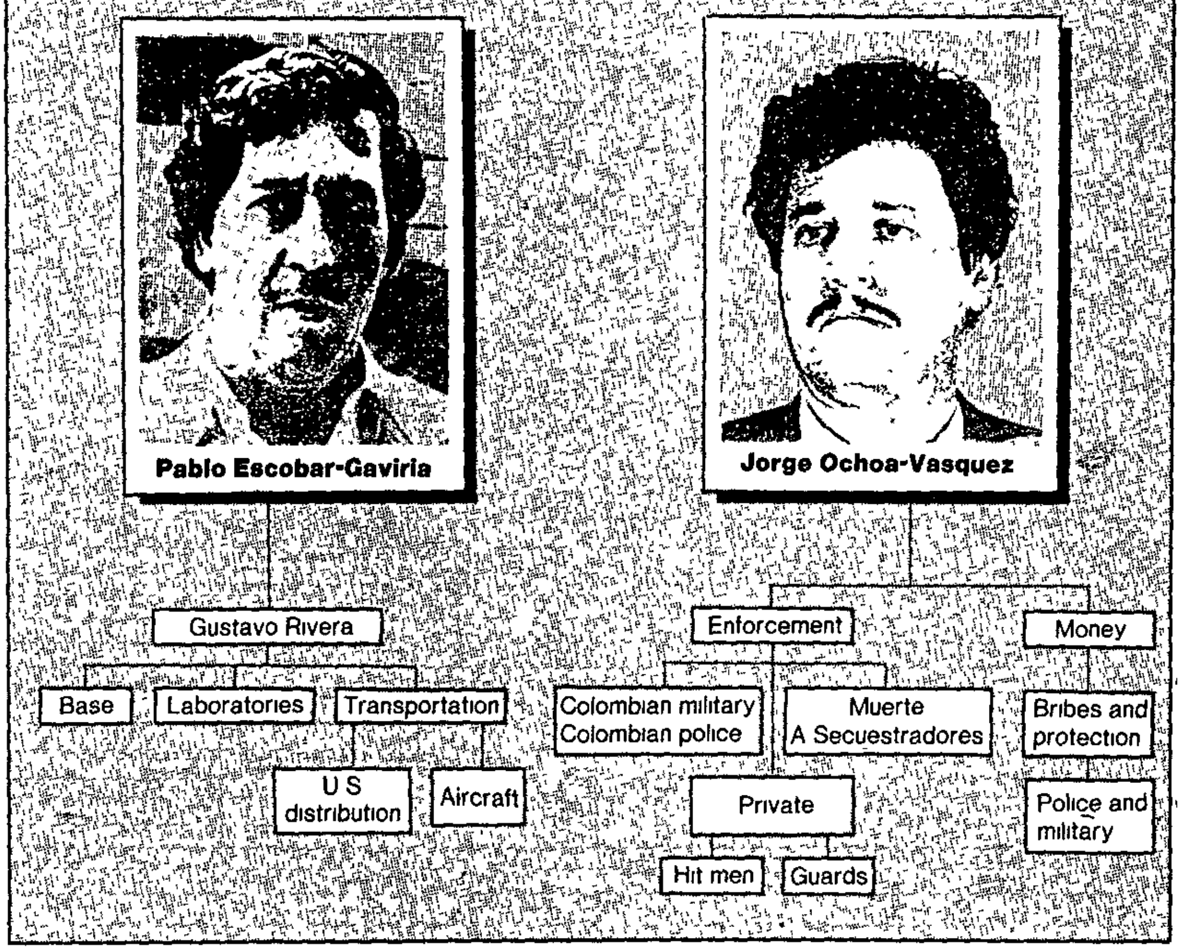
The statute allows federal prosecutors to use violations of certain state laws as well as federal laws in compiling criminal activities that can then be used to show existence of a racketeering enterprise

If convicted on all counts, the Ochoa-Vasquez brothers and Escobar-Gaviria face maximum sentences of life imprisonment without parole and more than $1 million in fines, according to the press release Defendants Lehder, Rodriguez-Gacha, Cardona-Salazar, Vaughan and John Doe face maximum sentences of at least 100 years each and fines of $1 million each, the release said

Gregorie said efforts to locate the cartel leaders will continue, and "we'd sure like to try all of them if we can get them here

"A former head of the narcotics police in Colombia and his wife and child were gunned down yesterday in Colombia," Gregorie said. "That kind of thing does not help us in getting them extradited to the United States"

Colombian cocaine organizations



SOURCE President s Commission on Organized Crime

DENNIS LOWE MORNING ADVOCATE

FD-36 (Rev 8-29-85)

FBI

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Date 12/2/86

FM NEW ORLEANS (245B-7)(P)

TO DIRECTOR (245B-76) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS

COINROLL, AKA ET AL; ADLER B. SEAL - VICTIM; OCDE TASK FORCE INVESTIGATION, OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE - MURDER. OO. NEW ORLEANS.

RE BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, RESIDENT AGENCY TELCALL OF SSRA [redacted] TO THE ORAGNIZED CRIME-COLOMBIAN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING UNIT, FBIHQ, DECEMBER 1, 1986.

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AS NOTED IN REFERENCED TELCALL, [redacted]

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PAGE THREE NO 245B-7 UNCLAS

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Memorandum

To SAC, NEW ORLEANS (245D-7) (P) Date 5/22/86

From SA [redacted] b7C

Subject MIGUEL VELEZ,
Et Al;
ADLER B. SEAL - VICTIM (DECEASED)
OCDE TASK FORCE INVESTIGATION;
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE
OO: NEW ORLEANS

[redacted]

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2 - New Orleans (1-94-356)
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